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DECEMBER 26, 1882.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Seventy-nine persons present.

Irregularities of the Dental Arch, etc.—Dr. HARRISON ALLEN called attention to the irregularity of the front and lateral curves forming the dental arch, and to some points in connection with the hard palate. He defined the curve of the teeth placed in the front of the jaw and answering to the premaxillæ, and those placed at the sides, the latter, pertaining to the maxillæ, having been found by him to be in the jaws of civilized whites always asymmetrical.

The folds (rugæ) of the hard palate are subject to much variation. In the human fœtus of five centimetres in length, they are regular, six in number, and arranged across the palate as in certain of the lower animals. At birth they have already become irregular, but as to how far such irregularity might exist without indicating deformity, he believed no data had been collected. The names canine, first intermediate, first bicuspid, second intermediate, second bicuspid, etc., were proposed for these rugæ. They are further arranged not infrequently in a median and a lateral set, an arrangement which is strikingly exhibited in some *Quadrumana*. When this arrangement appears in the human subject it may be accepted as an instance of reversion.

It was thought that a study of these rugæ, since they have systemic value in *Cheiroptera*, *Insectivora* and *Quadrumana*, might be undertaken in connection with other anthropological data. A series of plaster impressions of the dental arches and rugæ of young and adult heads of the different races, would be found of interest in this connection.

The disposition of the form of the wisdom-tooth to occasionally simulate the form of the premolar was commented upon.

The following papers were ordered to be printed :—